'Blame Martin' If Strike

VANCOUVER (CP)—Eight Lower Mainland hospital boards have told Health Minister Martin he must accept complete responsibility if a nurses' strike scheduled for March 12 takes place.

The boards sent the message as negotiations between the hospitals and the Registered Nurses' Association remained deadlocked.

The hospitals have truned down nurses' demands for a fully retroactive wage increase because they say the funds to meet the increases must come from the B.C. Hospital Insurance Service.

BCHIS has offered to provide funds for the increase, but not on a retroactive basis.

Mr. Martin has authorized the eight hospitals to offer the nurses $280 a month as of April, 1959.

The nurses are demanding a retroactive increase to $270 a month dating from last July 1 and $280 from Jan. 1, 1959.

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'Peter Pan' Fined

Actress Sarah Churchill, 44, was convicted of being drunk and disorderly and fined 40 shillings yesterday in Liverpool, where she is appearing as "Peter Pan." (This picture shows her visiting a children's hospital dressed as Peter.) Four policemen were needed to carry the shoeless actress into the dock following her arrest for refusing to pay a taxi fare.

Farmers Stall School Budget

KELOWNA (CP)—Rural representatives in this area have refused to approve the 1959 school budget until they know what portion will be borne by the provincial government.

The school representatives said yesterday they have full confidence in the District 23 school board, but are "reserving judgment" until they learn what the rural and provincial shares are.

The district's budget totals $1,600,000. The provincial government once paid 60 per cent of the total, with the balance divided among Kelowna, Glenmore, Peachland and rural areas.

Last year, the rural areas paid 42.8 per cent of the assessed "local" amount—a total of $584,000—and this year the tentative figure is $772,000.

Rural areas are normally assessed nine mills for education purposes. But if assessment went up, they will pay more and the government less.

Kelowna is also "reserving judgment." The budget must be approved by March 31.

Sammon Servants Speaker

Esquimalt Coun. G. K. Sammon, national president of the Department of Veterans' Affairs Employees Association, will speak tomorrow at the west coast conference of the Civil Service Federation of Canada, in the Business and Professional Women's Club hall, 902 Government Street.

Delegates from associations connected with the Vancouver Island, Vancouver and Fraser Valley branches of the federation will discuss the August convention of the federation in Halifax.

Nels Elliott of New Westminister, a former vice-president of the federation, will discuss the Heeney report on the proposed amendments to the Civil Service Act.

'Wagons' Lost in Clover Leaf

Alaska-ward Ho!

ANGOLA, Ind. (UPI)—A modern wagon train of 50 prospective homesteaders set out for Alaska from Detroit yesterday, but it soon bogged down in the wilds of Indiana.

Wagonmaster Ron Jacobowitz, 23, said wearily that getting a car caravan rolling on a super-highway was just as tough as pushing westward in a covered wagon.

He and the other "59ers" travelled 125 miles from Detroit on the first day of the 4,300-mile trip to pioneer homes in the newest state.

The modern pioneers had to call it a day when an overloaded trailer shifted and a tire was torn off.

Before that, four of the 15 cars started late from Detroit because of mechanical trouble and were still trying to catch up last night. Some of the cars turned off the turnpike to get gasoline and then became lost on the clover leaf system leading back to the road. They ended up going the wrong way, but finally got straightened around again.

The pioneers hope to arrive in Anchorage March 22. They will travel by way of Fergus Falls, Minn., Glen Ullin, N.D., Glasgow, Mont., and cross the Canadian border at Sweetgrass, Mont., March 10. They will take the Alcan Highway across the Yukon.

The caravan includes family cars and trailers, several borrowed station wagons and small trucks, and a 1936 moving van. The moving van's top speed is 45 m.p.h., and it will set the pace of the motorcade on the 4,500-mile journey.

A dozen children—from one to 14 years—are accompanying their parents on the trip.

WORLD FARM GROUP

The Food and Agricultural Organization founded at Quebec with 34 member nations in 1945 now has 74 members.

Civil Defence Needs Help From Victoria West

More Victoria West volunteers are needed to take part in a civil defence test evacuation to Sooke March 14. Evacuation will be in nature of an outing, with a hot noon meal supplied, but CD facilities which would be used in an emergency will be tested.

Aim is to evacuate 400 persons.

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